THE

SAINT LOUIS MAGNET.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

PLAINFIELD, IA., Nov. 1, 1845.

Mr. Editor: — The perusal of your publication has given me much satisfaction, in anthropological science. From the connexion existing between the mind and body, it is evident that the salvation of man can be most effectually promoted, by elevating the body with the mind. To do this, the laws of man's nature must be studied and understood, physically, organically, morally, and intellectually; or the philosophy of vitality and mentality must be known and obeyed; therefore, I have conceived that my sphere of usefulness, in promoting the happiness of my fellow beings, would be greatly enlarged and more happily occupied, by qualifying myself to relieve the body as well as the mind.

It is not my wish to become a medical practitioner, but I wish to obtain that practical knowledge in medical science necessary to relieve suffering humanity, with which I so frequently meet in my ministerial labors; and I am fully persuaded that there are no means by which I could better qualify myself for this most praiseworthy of all objects, than to become practically acquainted with the science of Mesmerism, and most especially the Duodynamic system of practice, or that practice which appertains to the use of the magneto-electrical machine.

I have so much confidence in nature and physiological remedies, to remove disease, aided by botanical medicines, that I have undertaken to cure a young lady of a nervous affection involving her whole system, which has completely prostrated her for more than two years. This patient has been declared incurable by the best physicians in the country, but you know their reliance is on drugs alone, which more frequently irritate disease, and thereby shorten life. It is well known that consumptive patients last but a short time, when treated by œlopathic physicians; this is undoubtedly caused by the strong medicines, which irritate and aggravate, rather than soothe the diseased organs, and to

assist nature in removing the disease. Observation and experience convince every one of the correctness of this conclusion, whose judices are not stronger than their reasoning, or, phrenologically spe whose selfish propensities are in obedience to the knowing and ref faculties.

I will state to you the course of treatment which I have marked this patient, in a brief manner, and any advice you may be pleased t will be thankfully received. The patient is of the sanguine tempera and did possess a powerful constitution, and still has a strong hold o The course which I am pursuing is, first, careful dieting, in which and exciting food is prohibited, especially animal food, and every th a greasy nature. Secondly, the cold shower-bath every day; wa immediately in blankets for three hours, then rubbed with a dry and flesh brush. For her cough, the Thompsonian cough powders promote digestion, No. 4 — composition, occasionally, to keep a deter tion of the vital power to the surface — magnetism to soothe strengthen the nervous system.

Should this course not meet with your approbation, please make corrections as you think proper, and greatly oblige your fellow labo the cause of humanity. G. W.

It is certainly true that mind is only known as manifested through m and, independent of matter, mind is not known. The mind may, wit propriety, be compared to a swarm of bees; the best service we can r them is, to prepare them a suitable hive, or tenement, to protect an care of it, leaving the bees in peaceable possession of its internal ments, gathering the sweets of life, and storing them up in suitable dance. Any attempt to improve their interests, by tampering with internal operations, would, most probably, prove prejudicial, rathe otherwise. The same is undoubtedly true of the mind; to attempt prove it, independent of the body, its habitation, is as futile and incon with reason and observation as it would be to attempt to improve the q of honey, without reference to the source from which it was collecte the vessel in which it should be contained. So, if we wish to im the condition of the mind, we must have reference to the food sustains the body, as well as that upon which the mind feeds; mind is manifested through the body, and necessarily partakes nature of that substance through which it is manifested. If the ma upon which the mind feeds be light and vulgar, the mind will part its character. Hence the injurious effect of light and vulgar readin the matter through which the mind is manifested be coarse and wea mind will, to a greater or less extent, partake of its character. Th

upon which the body feeds has its modifying influence upon both mind and body. Hence, DIETETICS becomes a very important study. A diseased condition of the body diseases the mind — so intimately are they connected, that one cannot be deranged without the sympathy of the other; hence the necessity of strict attention to the body, that its condition may be healthy, its quality fine, and all its organs or parts in such due proportion to each other, producing an harmonious action uninterrupted by a single jar. Then, indeed, would the design of nature be accomplished, establishing order and happiness to perfection. To bring about so desirable a result, the services of the schoolmaster, the divine, and the physician, are peculiarly brought into requisition.

As to advice, in respect to the patient in question, not having been informed of the symptoms peculiar to her case, would render it extremely hazardous indeed. These complicated lingering diseases of long standing require close and careful observation of temperament, as well as every other peculiarity of the patient. The practitioner must not be confined to books and circumscribed rules; powerful judgment, with careful observation, in varying the remedies to suit the exigencies of the case, are the only safe principles upon which the physician dares to base a system of practice. Any system of practice, less contracted than this, is sure to be faulty in the extreme — more frequently destroying life than preserving it! Those remedial agents which prove so effectual in one individual's case, frequently prove aggravating and destructive to another, which, to every appearance, was perfectly parallel. Thus it is in the practice of medicine; every dose thrown into the stomach is an experiment, which may produce the desired effect, and it may not. Hence, the physician says, "if and if." If what? "If the medicine produces the desired effect, the patient will recover." Careful dieting and prudent exercise are two medicines, in those complicated lingering complaints, which I am strictly conscientious in recommending. Yes! one other; — but it is not a drug, to be thrown into the stomach — it is the Magneto-Electrical Machine. Its entire success in treating every case of disease and in every stage, if not to permanently remove, to immediately palliate, compels us conscientiously to recommend it. We have caused consumptive patients, both male and female, who were gasping for breath, to breathe perfectly free and easy in less than two minutes, finding themselves clear of all oppression for the time being; and where those difficulties are not too deeply seated, a few applications of this simple machine permanently cures. It does not appear, like most drugs, to be limited in its application to a certain kind of disease, but, so far as we have had an opportunity of judging, it proves equally successful in all.

It possesses that peculiar power necessary to rouse the system in instance, to increase the temperature, and equalize the circulation; immediate tone to the nervous system.

We were called to see a patient, a few days since, lying in a co state; eyes rolled back, and fixed in the sockets; the veins very distended; the blood having almost ceased to circulate. We had him hot water up to his knees, and opened a vein in each foot, but no flowed. We applied the magneto-electrical machine, when the flowed immediately, with its wonted freedom. The patient w mediately relieved, and forthwith recovered, with but little attention.

In another case, where the patient had fallen from a building, br his shoulder and side very much, this machine was equally succes rousing and equalizing the circulation, and relieving the sufferer most exoruciating pain in a few minutes. Notwithstanding this was very severely bruised, suffering the most extreme pain shoulder, side, bowels, and hip, yet, in less than thirty minutes, all removed, and the next day, instead of lying in bed, suffering extreme soreness, as must have been the case under the ordinary of treatment, he was walking about, as usual, and the next day o found him at his regular employment.

We have used this machine very successfully in one case of cata the eye. It is a safer and much more pleasant method of treating this d disease than with the knife, and we have not the least doubt, much permanent, as it gives the eye such strength and vigor as would any predisposition to its return. This is an admirable as well as desirable improvement in the treatment of cataract.

We are now applying it in a very critical case of deafness contrary to our expectations, we are much gratified to say, succes This is a case of long standing. The patient had taken a violen which fell in her head, and, finally, settled in her ears, which brol discharged matter. After a length of time, one ear healed up, bu perfectly insensible to sound—she could not hear a particle with it. other, when we undertook the case, was fast falling into the condition, and the patient must soon have been left entirely deaf. applying the machine a while, her ears became very sore and tende are now becoming quite sensible to sound. By perseveringly pu the treatment, there can be but little doubt now but that a final cur be the result.

The following is the result of the examination in this case, whic made by our clairvoyant:—

Disease:—"Left lobe of the lungs slightly contracted; liver rather torpid; lower extremities cold; too much action in the head, and has been for a long time. The patient is quite deaf, hearing but little out of one ear, and none out of the other. *Remedies*:—Half an ounce of sweet oil, one drachm oil of sassafras, and half a drachm oil cedar, mix.; one drop in each ear every evening, first syringing the ears out thoroughly with warm water and castile soap. Take the sap from green hickory wood, and saturate a piece of wool with it: keeping the ears closed with this will prove quite stimulating, and tend to prevent the patient from taking cold. Take a quarter of a pound of dog-wood, (*Cornus Floriday*) two ounces of ladies' slipper, (*Cypripedium Pubescens*), three ounces white poplar bark, (*Liriodendron Tulipifera*) one ounce *Lobelia Inflata*; add water, and boil till all the strength is extracted, reducing the whole to one quart; add sugar to make a syrup. Let the patient take half a wine glass full of this syrup three times a day. The patient must bathe her feet every other evening in warm water. The magneto-electrical machine must be applied as often as three times a week, until the disease is principally removed, when twice a week may be sufficient. The positive pole must be applied to the back of the neck, and the negative to the ears. Then the action of the battery may be passed through from one mastoid process to the other; then from one zigomatic process to the other; and, finally, through from one ear to the other—using the precaution of damping pieces of sponge, and placing them in each ear. The poles of the battery may be changed, so as to pass its action through the ears both ways. This will rouse an action in the auditory nerves, and, produce considerable soreness, but will, eventually, remove the disease, leaving the auditory nerves in a healthy action. The battery should be applied from ten to fifteen minutes."

The patient's general health has already much improved. The pain in the ears, with which the patient suffered so severely, is entirely removed, and the soreness which was produced by the action of the battery, is mostly removed; and the auditory nerves are gradually becoming much more sensible to sound.

However much these clairvoyant examinations may look like humbuggery to the unthinking and prejudiced minds, it is, nevertheless, the most successful mode of practice with which we are acquainted; and were it more generally adopted, we are constrained to believe that thousands of lives might be saved which otherwise go down to untimely graves. Our experience in this matter is not of a mushroom character; we have tested it most effectually, and under the most trying circumstances, in cases of the most difficult and critical character, and, in every instance,

was new strength and vigor added to our faith; this faith has developed itself, and become knowledge. The philosophy of clairvo has burst upon our benighted mind, and we no longer take it for gr upon faith. We have faith enough to believe that rain falls in Chin we know that rain falls here—knowledge supersedes the necess faith. Those who are ignorant of any fact must either take it faith or disbelieve it. As soon as we know a fact to exist, faith longer required; neither is it possible for us to disbelieve. For to say he does not believe a statement or proposition to be tru merely to say he has not investigated it; for it must either be tr false. There can be no half way about it, and a thorough investigat every proposition will prove this position to be correct.

THE ORIGIN AND PROPAGATION OF FEBRILE DISEA

BY W. CLAY WALLACE, M.D., NEW YORK.

It may be said that all fevers are owing to local irritation, arising malposition of parts of the body, or the presence of foreign m Among the former may be enumerated protrusions of the viscera, d sion of the extreme vessels, fractures, luxations, &c. Among the pus and other excretions, necroses, poisons, animalculæ, vegetation

The present remarks have reference to two grand classes of fev the remittent and eruptive.

The origin of the remittent class, which, as it is difficult to say wh or not the paroxysm altogether subsides, may also include the inte tent, has been usually ascribed to malaria or miasmata. Miasmat generally considered to arise from the decomposition of anim vegetable matter; and the effects on the constitution are said to be c to inhalation of the gases generated by putrefactive fermentation. though putrid matter applied to a wound may cause great constitut disturbance, we have no facts to show that the emanations arising fr will occasion remittent fevers; for putrid macerations in colleges often cleaned out in the hottest weather, without producing diseases. In manufactories of adipocire, individuals have been surro ed by an atmosphere saturated with emanations from the decaying fle horses, dogs, and other animals, yet they remain perfectly hea Quantities of hay and weeds are rotted every summer. Animal vegetable manure, in all stages of decomposition, is often collecte heaps. The very same materials said to engender malaria are subj to the same decomposing influences without producing febrile sympt and the hottest seasons are not always the most unhealthy.

Happily for mankind, the poison producing febrile diseases cannot be prepared by human skill, even when aided by the numerous discoveries of modern chemistry. Though the elements are in the hands of the chemist, he can effect no combination of inert matter, capable of exciting a periodic disease, or one giving rise to emanations by which its kind may be reproduced. If such preparations could be made by art, the fabulous accounts of slow poison might be realized, when the spirit of revenge or cupidity demanded a victim. The ravages of pestilence might not be stayed with the destruction of the intended object, but spread all around, as the torch of an incendiary often devastates more than he intended.

The poisons generated by vegetables and animals are not inferior in power to those formed by the combination or decomposition of inert matter. As far as I understand, no artificial preparation of the elementary bodies will produce abortion, yet the laboratory of nature furnishes secale. Art does not furnish a compound capable of contracting the voluntary muscles equal to nux vomica. Prussic acid is inferior in virulence to aconitina, the fiftieth part of a grain of which has produced serious effects. A small portion of virus in the saliva of a rabid dog, is, when applied to the mucous membrane of the mouth, or into a wound, capable of lying dormant for a time, and afterwards producing horrible effects. An almost inconceivable portion of virus contained in the matter from a vaccine or variolous pustule, produces fever, and reproduction of the same kind of virus. Serpents, spiders, bees, gnats, &c., produce well known effects.

By microscopical obserations, light has been thrown on two contagious diseases — porrigo and scabies. The former has been ascertained to be a vegetable which even sheds its seed. The irritation of the latter is occasioned by an animalcule which burrows beneath the skin. Parasites are sometimes transferred from one animal to another, as the falling out of portions of the whiskers and eyebrows is said to be owing to destruction of their roots by a parasite of the horse fly. Like other soils, a particular state of the body seems to be necessary for the growth and propagation of parasites, for the animalculæ in the cheesy matter of acne punctata thrive best in a strumous subject.

Spurred rye is caused by a parasitical fungus, the dust on which will produce a similar affection in any grass, if sprinkled in the soil at the roots. This fungus, or rather the dust upon it, has proved poisonous not only to the mammalia, but even to leeches and flies, and has at different periods caused dangerous epidemics in different parts of Europe. Besides rye, many other grasses are subject to the alteration. It is probable that

the species of fungus will vary with the plant, and that the variety will produce different effects — thus the dust from one kind of fungus or other parasite may produce yellow fever, from another cholera, and so on; or hybrids may be produced, giving rise to new diseases.

The powder diffused in the air on opening the common puff ball, is said to be myriads of its seeds, which, wafted by the atmosphere, may pass to great distances. Many of these will alight on barren soil, or at least on places unfavorable for their growth, while others, out of the abundance diffused, will find locations that will yield support, and where they may propagate their seed, to be again in like manner dispersed by the wind to seek new habitations. We may hourly inhale portions of these, or similar seeds, without being aware of their presence. The seeds of the plants which constitute mouldiness or mildew, require decomposing animal or vegetable matter as a soil in which they may grow, and reproduce their species: There is reason to believe that they are constantly in the atmosphere, as neither paste nor soup can be long exposed to decomposition, without being covered with a miniature forest.

It is in autumn, when seeds of various kinds have passed to maturity, that fevers from malaria most frequently prevail. In dry or in very wet weather they are not often observed, but they appear after much rain, when the moisture has partially evaporated, and the vegetable matter been rendered favorable for mouldiness. Plantations of rice, which requires much moisture for its growth, are considered so unhealthy that the Russian government has prohibited its cultivation.

In 1817, Savannah, as I am informed by a gentleman who formerly resided there, was as healthy as southern cities usually are, till the rice on a large plantation near it was cut. For some time before this the prevailing wind was the south-west. Several days after the cutting of the rice, the wind changed to the north-east, or from the rice fields to the city, and in a few days the yellow fever prevailed to an alarming extent.

As plants have their peculiar locations, and do not survive the seasons of other latitudes, imported parasites may be propagated on whatever serves as a soil for mouldiness, till they are suddenly blighted by the appearance of frost. The poison of yellow fever gradually extends from the part where it was first introduced, and, to use the language of the contagionists, creeps from spot to spot, and increases the extent of the infected district. On the other hand, the poison of typhus, one of the exanthemata, does not survive the heat of a tropical region.

The cause of various other affections has been ascribed to animalculæ, and from what has been ascertained about itch, there is ground for the opinion. Animalculæ have been dried, and kept for a series of years, and

have again exhibited all the phenomena of life after being immersed in water. Their ova may lie in dust, and be diffused through the atmosphere, until they are placed in circumstances favorable for their development. It is possible that in this way some of the exanthemata may be disseminated. The plants or animalculæ producing them, or their seeds or ova, may be contained in the albuminous crusts, which occasion the disease by contact, or when dried and distributed throughout the atmosphere, by being inhaled. Their seeds or ova may also be put forth with the air, from the eruptions on the lining membrane of the lungs.

There may be something more than mere figurative language when we talk of the seeds of disease, and of the periods of germination or incubation. The seeds or ova of eruptive diseases may pass through the food or air passages to the circulatory system, and be deposited beneath the cutiele. After a period of germination or incubation, they are more speedily developed on the parts most exposed to air and light, and progress more slowly on the rest of the body. After an allotted time they reach maturity, and then die away, having previously yielded the means of propagating their kind. It is perhaps by limiting the quantity of seeds, or ova, that the complaint is milder when the matter of small pox is inserted beneath the cuticle, than when it is received by the air passages. As plants are modified by cultivation in a different climate and soil, diseases are modified by passing through a different animal; thus, when small pox prevails, cows may take the disease, the products of which will occasion a complaint that is rarely fatal, and which can be communicated only by planting, or direct contact to an abraded surface.

According to the theories advanced, most febrile diseases are of two kinds. The one is occasioned by irritation from reception of poison from parasites, away from the body; the other by irritation from parasites in the skin. The one is propagated on bodies exterior to the person; the other is propagated upon it. Though the one is, strictly speaking, non-contagious, both are alike to be dreaded, for the seeds of pestiferous fungi may take root on decomposing matter, and soon, by reproduction, fill the air with poisonous dust. The seeds of the other may be disseminated in a similar manner, to grow and be reproduced on the body. The euphonous terms, koino miasma and idio miasma, have been employed to distinguish contagion from the person, from that arising from infected air.

Parasites, then, are the chief sources of disease, and as we can only attribute the commencement of animal and vegetable life to creative power, it is inferred that these causes of mortality existed from time immemorial. Contagious diseases have broken out among workmen engaged in the manufacture of chlorine, and all disinfecting agents have been found so

inefficient, that we do not know they can be controlled by any k
substance. Habits of ablution, which have been so often recomme
have been found by experience to be the best means of checking
propagation. To have a system free from noxious parasites, it is nece
to observe the utmost cleanliness. Cleanliness in the street, in the
and in the domestic animals. Cleanliness in the ceiling, the wall
the floor. Cleanliness in the kitchen, the parlor, and the bed-
Cleanliness in what we eat, what we drink, and what we put on. C
liness without the person, and cleanliness within it. As the weeds
an ill-conducted farm annoy an industrious neighborhood, it is a goo
to keep well to windward of a suspicious looking craft.

The larger insects, as flies and worms, consume the decomposing
on which noxious parasites may take root, and if it abounds they b
so annoying that its removal is demanded. The slumberer on an u
bed is again and again reminded that its condition should be exa
and unclean garments soon present their own memorialists. Burns
the feelings of a poet, might utter his detestation at the ugliness of
them, but it required the philosophic mind of Peter Pindar, wh
educated a physician, to compose a poem in its praise. The little
quito, with its buzzing noise and poisoned bill, does its utmost to p
approach to marshy districts, especially in the evening. With indom
courage and perseverance it repeats its warnings at the imminent
its life, yet it may prevent remittent fever in another way. I have
informed by a medical friend, whose father made the observation
those who slept under musquito netting escaped the disease, and
concluded that the insects were useful in forcing its adoption.
poisonous seeds being interrupted by the netting, leave the atmos
within it comparatively pure. It is possible that by falling o
aqueous vesicles constituting mist, the dust of malaria may be inhale
more concentrated form, by exposure after sunset.

When animal or vegetable parasites are introduced to a rural d
other parasites are apt to accompany them. A like course is ob
by the parasites constituting disease, for itch and the exanthemat
often their sequelæ. The seeds of porrigo are sometimes intr
with the virus of vaccinia.

Many vegetable poisons cease to exert a noxious influence, wh
system is accustomed to their action. A drachm of tobacco has occa
death when infused and administered as an enema for strangulated
yet there are numbers who, by frequent practice, chew several d
a day, without apparent injury. It is well known that the cases ar
fatal at the first appearance of the epidemic, and that Creoles are
able to be affected with fever as strangers. *Boston Med. & Sur.*

FOR THE ST. LOUIS MAGNET.

THE MILK SICKNESS.

Mr. Editor:—During a late trip in Illinois, I took pains to collect all the information I could from every source, concerning this "pestilence that walketh in darkness," striking its unsuspecting victims from its undiscovered hiding place. My object was to drag to light this unknown murderer, upon whose head so many bounties have hitherto been set in vain. Shrouded in impenetrable mystery, he has defied all attempts at discovery, and even bribed his very victims and their suffering friends, to hush up his midnight assassinations; scarcely any one being willing to disclose his doings in their neighborhood. From all I could learn of the stately goings of this dreaded angel of death, of whose footsteps no one can be forewarned, I have come to the following conclusions:—

1st. *It is not* a vegetable poison, because no vegetable poisons inflict the *permanent constitutional injury* which this is known to do. No deadly mineral poisons (which milk sickness, from its effects, must be) are known to be incorporated in the growth of vegetables in sensible quantities.

2d. It *is* occasioned, principally, by *Arsenious* fumes issuing from the earth, perhaps at times slightly impregnated with cobalt or copper. These fumes are, quite probably, in many instances, in the form of *Arseniuretted hydrogen gas*, known to be a very noxious compound; at other times and places they may become an *evaporated Arsenic acid*, which has a thick honey-like consistence and appearance. Something like this last substance has been frequently seen near two famous milk sickness spots, mixed with the dew in the morning, upon the herbage. I also heard that it had been found in a white incrustation on rocks about a spring whose waters produced milk sickness—the fumes, in this instance, having become incorporated with the water in their passage out of the earth.

I visited two famous milk sickness localities, both *low places*, and evidently formed by the sinking of a portion of the surface into a deep subterranean cavity. After rains, and in damp weather, a fog is seen rising from these insulated spots, while it rises from no other portion of the surrounding country, evidencing the escape of warmth from great depths, through an opening in the stratified rocks, bringing up with it *arsenious vapors*, from the regions of heated granite.

These are the kind of suffocating fumes which Telemachus encountered, "boldly, sword in hand," as he approached the *Desensus averni*.

When the wind blows they are dissipated into the atmosphere, without injury to any one, but when the air is still at night, they accumulate, and are brought down with the falling dew upon the herbage in quantities sufficiently sensible to poison the cattle that feed upon it. The flow of these vapors depending on subterranean dynamics, are as uncertain and interrupted as volcanic action.

If this view of the causes of milk sickness is correct, the investigation of it becomes the province of the geologist, and not of the botanist. If the legislatures of the different states where this scourge prevails, would employ a scientific geologist and chemist like Professor Owen, to visit noted localities, and gather facts by extensive correspondence, to endeavor to arrive at a conclusion in this way, they would, in my opinion, take a more *practical* view of the subject than in offering bounties to the discoverer of it. Their present plan smacks too much of the quack principle on which some people employ physicians — "No cure, no pay." Let the explorer first obtain information from the farmers of localities; then judge, as near as he can from the surface, where the subterranean fissures exist in the stratified rocks, and submit the air over them to some delicate test of arsenious presence. In this way these breathing holes of the earth may be discovered and fenced out, at public expense, as forbidden and infected districts. Experiments should also be made with diluted arsenic upon domestic animals, to see how far it corresponds with milk sickness.

In listening to the detail of the symptoms of milk sickness, (an acute case of which I have never seen), I was forcibly struck with their similarity to a disease of which the English once died, after taking possession of a fort, from which they had driven the French. At last, the cause of it was found to be a bag of arsenic in the bottom of the well from which they obtained water. So far as I can learn, the milk sickness has generally been treated as a poisoning disease, but until the precise nature of the poison is discovered, all medical treatment must, of course, be defective. The poisonous contents of the stomach and intestines should be promptly removed first, when a stomach-pump is not at hand, by emetics and cathartics, tickling the fauces with a feather, &c. On the supposition that arsenic is the cause, linseed tea, soap water, decoction of mallows, white of eggs and water, syrups, sugar water, warm milk, chocolate, &c., should be copiously drank, and used in enemas; half a table-spoonful of iron rust in a cup of water is good. After administering any of these, let vomiting be excited by a feather in the fauces, and the operation frequently repeated. Against the dangerous sinking and prostration that follows, a very weak dilution of laudanum, in small

quantities, would be good; also a little quinine mixed with the linseed or mallows tea.

These hints are thrown out for country people to follow until a physician can be had. The writer once treated a person whose constitution had been nearly ruined eighteen months before by milk sickness. His former health and strength were, in a great measure, restored by homœopathic doses of carbo vegetabilis and nux v., continued for ten weeks, the former producing the most marked improvement. H.

[This view of this formidable disease is corroborated by several very intelligent observers with whom we are acquainted. Facts, with which we are acquainted also, would seem to strengthen the position taken by our correspondent. It is a subject, at all events, worthy of investigation; and every person, most especially physicians, who have the opportunity of gathering facts and making observations, should not neglect to do so. By this means, the true cause of this fatal disease may be discovered and removed, or, at least, greatly modified.]

FOR THE SAINT LOUIS MAGNET.

PHONOGRAPHY.

Mr. Editor:—From a perusal of your Journal, "The Magnet," I perceive it is devoted to the furtherance of science and knowledge. The subject to which I would call your attention, and the attention of your readers, has, however, no connection with the subject of animal magnetism, yet it is one of very great importance, and well worthy the notice of the intelligent portion of this city—I have reference to the science of Phonography, or, writing by sound. This subject is now being placed before the eyes of the people of St. Louis by the inventor, Mr. Benjamin Hardinge, a gentleman of rare acquirements, learning, and scientific research. The present method of writing, as all who write much are aware, will admit of much improvement, being very inadequate for writing with a degree of facility, and, at the same time, with accuracy. The number of silent letters, the combination of several letters to produce a sound which may be expressed by one, and often a different letter from any used, besides the great number of motions necessary to the formation of these letters, and the words in which they enter, are in themselves sufficient to render the task of writing a laborious one, especially if great facility is required. It was this that induced Mr. H. to look for some

other method than by the characters now in common use; he ex
the various systems of Stenography, invented to remedy the difficu
found them, in a greater or less degree, inadequate for the end d
yet these systems were, for the most part, improvements on the c
way of writing. He was thrown on his own resources, and, after th
of some years, he has presented to the public a system greatly sup
any other system now in use. He commences by taking for his gu
various sounds which are requisite in pronouncing the words
English language, or those of any other; these sounds he redu
between twenty-five and thirty; for characters to represent these
he has recourse to geometrical principles, and from the circle and
he forms all his characters; each character is made with a single
and no combination of characters, for the formation of any word, em
more than seven motions, whereas, in the common way of writin
number of motions is often required for the formation of a single
The motions used are the most natural for the hands and fingers,
learned, and as easily retained in the memory. It has been objec
many who have paid very little attention, that it is very blind, and l
with difficulty; but it is not so. If they would but give it the att
which it fully deserves, they would soon be convinced to the co
As a facility in writing, it is acquired in a very short time, and,
little practice, a person is enabled to write as fast as one would ord
talk or read. All silent letters are dispensed with in writing, the
contained in the word being the sole guide in its formation. In the
space of time of ten hours, a system of writing is acquired, by whi
whole number of words in the English language (amounting to 4
and upwards) may be written. It has been applied to the S
language with great success. I believe it is in contemplation by a
in this city, to apply it to the German; yet, having been made w
eye to the English language, it is, of course, better adapted to tha
to any other language.

The science of Phonography is not the only science taught by
Hardinge; he teaches a system of Mnemonics; it is called by hi
"art of Memory;" a plan of aiding the memory in its retention
many subjects presented to it. Its application to mnemonizing da
ancient and modern history has been fully demonstrated to the pe
this city, in the public lectures given by Mr. H.

He also has a plan of teaching History, Geography, and Gramma
which the smallest child can make more progress, in six hours, th
can, in the present way of teaching, in six months.

When these subjects were first brought before the notice of the p

of this place, they were decried and hooted at by the wiseacres and would be wise men, who take the opportunity of railing at any person who may have invented any thing useful, to bring themselves into notice, being well aware that their own merit would never do so. There are other persons here—men of learning—who have neglected to examine the system of Phonography, being satisfied in their own minds that it is not feasible. Yet I am well convinced, that, if those persons would but test the system as it should be tested, they would at once see its merit, and use all their influence to bring it into notice and general use. I do not mean to say that this system is perfect, for, in this age, when science is taking such strides in its onward progression, it would be indeed strange if every department of science was not capable of great improvement. Yet from a trial of the system, I am convinced that this testimony is justly due to Mr. Hardinge, from ONE OF HIS PUPILS.

CLIMATE, SEASONS, AND PERIODS OF TIME INDICATED BY FOSSIL WOOD.

By a knowledge of comparative anatomy, the forms, structure, and economy of beings long since obliterated from the face of the earth, may with certainty be determined. So by the aid derived from a few botanical principles, we may illustrate not only the form and character of vegetables, of which but the faintest vestiges remain, but also point out the important inferences at which we may arrive, relative to the state of the earth, the nature of the climate, and even of the seasons which prevailed at the periods when those plants flourished. Our distinguished countryman, Professor Babbage, has forcibly exemplified the inductive process by which such results may be obtained.

"We have seen," observes this distinguished philosopher, "that dicotyledonous trees increase in size by the deposition of an additional layer annually between the wood and the bark; and, that a transverse section of such trees presents the appearance of a series of nearly concentric, irregular rings, the number of which indicates the age of the tree. The relative thickness of these annular markings depends on the more or less flourishing state of the plant during the years in which they were formed. Each ring may, in some trees, be observed to be subdivided into others, thus indicating succesive periods of the same year during which its vegetation was advanced or checked. These rings are

disturbed in certain parts by irregularities resulting from branches; and the year in which each branch first sprang from the parent stock, may therefore be ascertained by proper sections. These prominent effects are obvious to our senses; but every shower that falls, every change of temperature that occurs, and every wind that blows, leaves on the vegetable world the traces of its passage; slight indeed, and imperceptible perhaps to us, but not the less permanently recorded in the depths of those woody fabrics.

"All these indications of the growth of the living tree are preserved in the fossil trunk, and with them also frequently the history of its partial decay. Let us now examine the use we can make of these details relative to individual trees, when considering forests submerged by seas, imbedded in peat mosses, or transformed, as in some of the harder strata, into stone. Let us imagine that we possessed sections of the trunks of a considerable number of trees, such as those occurring in the Island of Portland. If we were to select a number of trees of about the same size, we should probably find many of them to have been contemporaries. This fact would be rendered probable if we observed, as we doubtless should do, on examining the annual rings, that some of them, conspicuous for their size, occurred at the same distances of years in several trees. If, for example, we found on several trees a remarkably large annual ring, followed at a distance of seven years by a remarkably thin ring; and this again, after two years, followed by another large ring, we should reasonably infer from these trees, that seven years after a season highly favorable to their growth, there had occurred a season highly unfavorable to them: and that after two more years, another very favorable season had happened, and that all the trees so observed had existed at the same period of time. The nature of the season, whether hot or cold, wet or dry, would be known with some degree of probability, from the class of tree under examination. This kind of evidence, though slight at first, receives additional and great confirmation by the discovery of every new ring which supports it; and, by a considerable concurrence of such observations, the succession of seasons might be ascertained in geological periods, however remote."

FOR THE SAINT LOUIS MAGNET.

PHRENOLOGY.

Phrenology should be looked upon as a heavenly science, because it treats of the heavenly elements enfolded into an existence called *Man*.

Phrenology, like every other real knowledge, is a gift from heaven, and directs man to seek the Spirit, with respect to a knowledge of himself. It has not yet been applied in all its truth; still its value as a divine gift, remains unaltered. It should be studied as proceeding from that Spirit who has created the very faculties of whose joys it treats. It shows, above all other sciences, how the Creator, by his presence in the faculties, directs them to his own joyous purpose. The Creator has planted in the universe the three elements wherewith he works out the improved man, and Phrenology directs man to love and apprehend rightly the use the Creator is making of him. This science points evidently to the vital relationship which exists between *man* and his *Maker*. It demonstrates clearly the fact, that, in the animal economy, no operation can take place within an organ without the organizer—that no single organ, whether nerve or gland, performs a function of itself. Phrenology shows that the various feelings, sentiments, and qualities of the mind, with material instruments, cannot be manifested in this life, without the divine presence actuating them. The Creator is wonderfully and constantly remaking man, and it is to the *marvellous skill* and wonderful wisdom which He is displaying in the organizing work, that Phrenology calls your attention.

Phrenology asserts that every creature and every physical object is receiving a progressive constitution, and is placed in certain relations with the Creator;—that a sense of goodness and happiness is the result of obedience to these relations, and that vice, sin, and misery consist in, and arise from, the neglect and disobedience of the Spirit. Phrenology gives a just exposition of that which *previously* exists in human nature, and declares that the results of the qualities and actions have no individual existence independent of that mind which previously exists in the *Infinite*.

Phrenology treats of the known qualities in man, as a physical, organic, and moral being, under the action of general laws. It proves the correspondence that exists between the interior spirit and exterior form. It shows the results of the Eternal Spirit over mind and matter.

Phrenology shows that nothing can be more wonderful and precious than the productions of the Divine Mind, when manifesting itself through human conditions—that the human mind stands in nearly the same

relationship to the Divine Mind as the earth does to the Sun, and that the manifold powers put forth in every day life by the most ordinary men, are manifestations of the Divine Mind, through its mentalized human instrument, *the brain of man*.

Phrenology shows that the Divinity himself, the Spirit alone, is that which animates all creation — is the life in all that lives — and that man's physical, moral, and spiritual faculties have, like man himself, a joy only from the Divine Mind.

Phrenology proves that every function of the mind and body is receiving a legitimate sphere of activity, that each may be misused, and that it is impossible to avoid its being so, except by fulfilling through the laws, all the Spirit's organic and moral requisitions; and declares the absolute and indispensable necessity of overcoming the animal nature, and of offering the whole mansion of the highest and noblest sentiments to the Spirit, for its exercise and use.

Phrenology is a practical science; is demonstrable both in its abstract and in its aggregate, and refers, lastly, and principally, to joyful results.

In what practical utility this science consists, will be treated of, or, at least, cursorily pointed out, in some future articles in this publication.

B.

[We shall be much pleased to have friend B. continue his correspondence, by showing the practical relations of Phrenology to education and morals in general. This is what the public mind requires, and we should be pleased to present them with it, through the medium of our publication, especially from so practical a writer as our worthy correspondent.]

FOR THE SAINT LOUIS MAGNET.

Mr. Editor:—I believe, sir, that you will be able to recollect that I hesitated a good deal when you mentioned to me Dr. Buchanan's discoveries in the action and affections of the nervous system, by him termed, Neurology.

We have all so much and so frequently been disappointed by the failure of new discoveries, real or pretended, that, in common with most persons of experience and reflection, I am inclined to entertain a considerable degree of distrust about such professions of extraordinary power and knowledge.

I heard his introductory lecture, at Concert Hall — my doubts were shaken, but I was far from being convinced. I had no opportunity of attending his course of lectures which he gave to his class, business having otherwise engaged me, so as to leave me no leisure, only just to

hear the last of his course. I do not pretend to judge deeply of science, but I feel that Dr. Buchanan is a very extraordinary man. I know not whether, indeed, most to admire his manner of treating his subject, or the subject itself. His language is flowing, full, and elegantly correct. His style unassuming, earnest, and familiar. His great aim seems to be to fix the understanding upon his subject; consequently, all the play of creative fancy, or brilliant display, or other fashionable but hollow artifices, are entirely neglected. He illustrates, however, by the most chaste and beautiful examples, and by the most appropriate and striking analogies. His proofs carry with them the most full and perfect conviction. Persons must be much more than ordinarily sceptical who can refuse him their credence, seeing that he demonstrates every proposition or the principle therein contained; those propositions are stated with such clearness, that there is scarcely a possibility of being mistaken in his meaning—they reach both the head and the heart, without playing round either—there seem to be no words more in any demonstration than what is absolutely necessary; and this, as you know, should always be the case in scientific lectures.

His method it is not in my power to describe; this, however, I may state, that every proposition is made by him, as far as possible, the basis of that which succeeds it. By this mode of procedure the memory is greatly assisted, and the judgment gratified.

I feel that Dr. Buchanan's discoveries are fraught with benefit to mankind; his science, of which your own embraces all the curative principle, is a message of mercy and benevolence to the human family—a real triumph of scientific culture. To you, sir, and to him, and to the great cause in which you are both engaged, I wish every success.

Yours, respectfully, A.

We have received a few copies of the "Sketches of Dr. Buchanan's Discoveries in Neurology." This is a neat pamphlet, containing one hundred and twenty pages, and will be read with marked interest by all those who feel interested in keeping pace with the rapid progress of Anthropological science. Price 25 cents, or five copies will be sent to address, by remitting one dollar.

We have also received a number of Phrenological Busts, manufactured out of plaster of paris, and neatly executed; containing all the organs mapped off, in accordance with the improved method of Mr. Fowler. The boundaries of each organ are distinctly engraven in the busts. Price $1 50.

A number of very neatly executed Neurological Busts have been left with us for sale by an ingenious artist, Mr. Dixon, formerly of England. These busts contain all the organs mapped off in strict accordance with Dr. Buchanan's discoveries in Neurology. Having examined the busts, and compared them with the Dr.'s chart, we hesitate not to say we believe them to be correct. They will prove an invaluable guide to the student who wishes to investigate this science. The organs are neatly engraven in the bust, and the name of each organ pasted on it, showing the precise locations of the organs. Price $2 50.

We acknowledge the receipt of a very acceptable present from our patron and friend, N——, and we cannot better express our gratitude than by wishing him uninterrupted health and happiness. This gentleman had suffered severely with a pain in his breast and side, for some six months. By reading the Magnet, he became so sanguine in the belief that our mode of practice would remove his difficulty, that he came the distance of twenty-five or thirty miles to see us. We applied the rotary galvanic machine, not at that time having the magneto-electrical, and in two days he returned home, perfectly well, and has remained so ever since. In a letter which we received from him, he says—"I have labored nearly as hard since as I ever did before, although, for some six months before I placed myself under your care, I was not able to labor at all." It is truly very gratifying to a physician, after expending his best energies for the relief of his fellow beings, to have it so gratefully repaid.

SWEATING BLOOD.—CLAIRVOYANCE.—A remarkable case of *something* is said to have been exhibited, for some time past, in the person of Susan E. Pearson, a young woman living with Mr. Hiram Weetfall, in this town. She has been afflicted several times with severe spasms, in which she suffers great pain, and on two or three occasions sweat blood profusely over the stomach, and from the forehead. This sweating of blood she prophesied beforehand, and, on each occasion, it took place at the precise time predicted, in the presence of respectable persons, whose testimony we are bound to believe. It is also said that she has frequently, when sitting in a closed room, related accurately what some members of the family were doing in other departments of the house or premises. That she will tell the time of day to a minute, by a time piece in the other room, out of her sight—and, that, frequently, she has been heard reading the Bible correctly and fluently in her dark room. She says she can read and tell the time of day perfectly well in the dark, as it is all plain to her sight. Many of her sayings and doings are beyond the common experience of human actions. We give them as we have heard them from respectable witnesses.—*Wabash Courier.*

THE ST. LOUIS MAGNET.

This publication has now reached its eighth number, and we must say we are highly gratified, and agreeably disappointed, with the flattering reception with which it has met. Our friends of the press have most unanimously noticed it with marked respect, paying due tribute to its neat and tasty appearance, as well as the profound and philosophical matter with which its pages teem. Our subscribers, we find, anxiously await its arrival; many in the city frequently inquire for it several days before it is due. Its circulation is sufficient to cover expenses, and daily increasing. Hence, our friends have nothing to fear. It will be sustained and continued, notwithstanding the fears and doubts of its friends, and the malicious prophecies of its enemies. We have the back numbers sufficient to accommodate some five hundred subscribers more, and we should be pleased to have our friends interest themselves in obtaining subscribers sufficient to exhaust the whole edition by the time the second volume commences.

It has been strongly suspected, that a scientific periodical could not be sustained in the far West; but most certainly the reception which the "St. Louis Magnet" has met argues very differently, and compels us, in spite of preconceived opinions, to draw a very different conclusion; and all we ask, to make it equal to any of its contemporaries of like magnitude, is, sufficient encouragement. Such encouragement we hope to merit. We shall spare neither pains nor expense in making the work interesting, instructive and desirable to our readers; presenting them with whatever is new, solid and practical, upon all those subjects which it professes to investigate. We fully subscribe to the duodynamic system of philosophy, believing that two forces govern all actions — the negative and positive: one drawing and the other pushing — the positive pushing, and the negative drawing; that two positives repulse, and that two negatives produce no effect. Upon this principle we solve the problem of the "St. Louis Magnet" occasionally being repulsed. We close this article with a few examples of the attractive character, being so fortunate as to meet with but one of the opposite principle, (Sangamo Journal,) and that we have, unfortunately for our readers, contrived to lose.

MESMERISM.— We have received the first number of the St. Louis Magnet, a monthly publication, devoted to the investigation of Animal Magnetism, published by Dr. T. J. McNair, at St. Louis, for one dollar per annum.

The work seems clear of humbuggery. The editorials evince sincere devotion to science, with much ability, and the whole contents seem

devoted to the object of furthering the new and astonishing discoveries in the human economy, subserving the best interests of man in the science and practice of medicine.—*Vicksburg Sentinel.*

THE ST. LOUIS MAGNET—For June, 1845, is upon our table. This is the second number of this interesting monthly; and from the ability and knowledge of the philosophy of human nature displayed in the editorials, we incline to the opinion that its days will be many, and that its paths will be strewed with flowers. The contents, original and selected, are well written; and the general tone of "The Magnet" is such as to commend the sciences it advocates to the unprejudiced and candid mind.—*Green Bay Republican.*

THE ST. LOUIS MAGNET.—The July number of this spirited periodical is received. It is certainly got up in the best natured and captivating style of anything we have seen upon the subjects of which it treats, and commends itself to all lovers of science. The philosophy of human nature is a theme of grave importance, and is worthy the careful investigation of every mind, and the "Magnet" augurs well to illustrate the subject carefully. Published at $1 per annum.—*Grant co. Herald, W.T.*

THE MAGNET OFFICE

Is removed to No. 92 Chesnut Street, nearly opposite the Post-Office, and is, most certainly, quite an attractive place; as every thing connected with Magnetism, Mesmerism, Phrenology, Neurology, Botanic Medicines, &c. &c., is kept on hand, and for sale. The Magneto-Electrical Machine—Rotary Galvanic, and Vibratory, can be had at the shortest notice, and at the lowest prices, by calling at this office, or addressing the editor, post paid. The Magneto-Electrical Machine is illustrated by an engraving in the fifth number of the Magnet, and the Vibratory will be found illustrated by an engraving in this number. The Rotary will be forthcoming in the next. The cost of these machines will vary in proportion to size. The Magneto will cost from $35 to $50; Vibratory from $15 to $20; and the Rotary from $13 to $18.

THE WEATHER.—For the last few days, we have had unusually cold weather for the season, the thermometer having, for several morning's past, sunk below zero. The river is reported to be closed by gorges of ice below this city, and navigation is entirely suspended. This inclement weather rendering it almost impossible to work the *press*, has caused the delay of our appearance for a few days, for which our subscribers will show us the lenity the occasion demands.

NEW MAGNETO-ELECTRIC MACHINE,

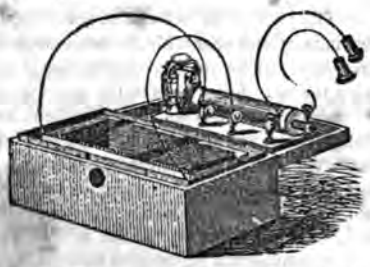
FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES.

The favor with which this little Machine has been received by many of the Medical Profession, and others who have used them, on persons laboring under various diseases who have been restored to health, or benefited thereby, induces this publication. The Machine is entirely different from all Electrical Machines and Galvanic Batteries—it requires to be used but from 5 to 10 minutes at a time. The effects are not repulsive to the patient, and no ill effects can be referred to. Testimonials in its favor are daily accumulating. It admits of the most perfect control, as, from a high degree of power, it can be reduced, with unerring certainty, down to the very smallest, by a slight alteration of the wires, at the pleasure of the operator. It requires no assistant in its use, where the person is able to hold the handles.

It is used with astonishing success in cases of Nervous Diseases, Neuralgia, Paralysis, Rheumatism, Sick and Nervous Headache, Dyspepsia, Bronchitis, Loss of Voice, Scrofula, Curvatures of the Spine, Toothache, Sprains, Deafness, and many other diseases. It has been used by hundreds of medical men, our hospitals, asylums, and infirmaries; and abundant references of its efficacy from our best citizens can be given. Many of the cures have been pronounced astonishing.

DESCRIPTION.

The Machine consists of a double coil or helix of coarse copper wire, insulated, over which is wound about 1000 feet of fine insulated copper wire, in the interior of which is placed a bundle of soft iron wires, and which, when the Machine is in operation, become powerful magnets, and regulate the strength of the power according to the extent they are placed in. At one end of the Machine, (placed sometimes at the side,) is an Electro Magnet, formed of soft iron, and bent in the form of a U, and wound with two coils of covered copper wire, one end of which is soldered to the Magnet, and the other communicated with the coarse helix. To one end or pole of the Electro Magnet is fastened a spring, with a small hammer at one end, and just over the pole of the Electro Magnet, and through which spring the power of the battery flows, from the point of a screw supported on two brass pillars, over the middle of the spring, (which screw can be moved to the proper distance, to cause the vibrations to continue with the best effect,) the current from the battery is carried through the helix, spring, and Electro Magnet, by connecting wires fastened in the brass cups, with binding screws at the side of the Machine. The fine wires are connected with cups at the end of the Machine, and in which are secured wires connecting with handles, or other conductors for communicating the effect.



The Galvanic Battery consists of an oblong square vessel, or box of copper, having a space all around of about an inch inclosed with copper for the liquid, and within which is suspended a square frame of zinc, so arranged as not to be in contact with the cop-

per, it being supported by cross bars of metal, under which wood is fastened, to insulate it from the copper. There is a small tube in one of the corners of the zinc, and also of the copper vessel, to insert the connecting wires from the Machine. There is a projecting piece within each end of the inner apartment of the battery to set the zinc on when not in use. The space in the middle contains the Machine when transported, also the conductors, wires, &c. The liquid employed is blue vitriol, (sulphate of copper,) dissolved in hot water, about two ounces to a quart of water, left to cool before using. The liquid requires to be renewed when the acid is entirely taken up by the zinc, which will be known by there being no deposit on the zinc, after being immersed for a few minutes; in which case the liquid is poured out, and a new solution made, also any sediment cleaned out. The zinc frame should be left in the solution only while the application is made, as it soon becomes coated with a deposit which should be cleaned off after using, or if left to dry on may be scraped off with an old knife, a clean surface of zinc being necessary to the perfect operation of the Machine. The solution may remain in the copper any length of time, as it does not act on it.

DIRECTIONS.

Fill the exterior apartment of the copper box about half or two-thirds full of water, in which is dissolved an ounce and a half of blue vitriol. Place the zinc frame within it, care being taken to keep the zinc free from contact with the copper, in all directions. Fasten one end of one of the connecting wires securely in the hole in the corner of the zinc, the other wire in the copper, and the other ends in the cups, with binding screws at the side of the instrument. Touch the spring with the finger, and the vibrations will continue by the power of the battery. The effect is received from handles, or conductors, attached to wires, secured in the cups with screws at the end of the instrument. The flat conductors, with cork handles, are to apply to or around any diseased part; or one handle may be held in the hand, and one of the conductors applied around the part affected. These are pleasantly used with a sponge tied over one of them, and wet with water. Metallic plates are also used to place the foot on, or to apply to any part under the clothes. It may be used agreeably, and with much effect, by the patient holding one of the handles, and another person the other handle, and with the other hand making passes over or around the diseased part. This is particularly useful about the head, and where the pain is under the hair it should be thoroughly wet, to have the effect pass through it. The best effects have followed from regular applications of a mild power, from five to fifteen minutes, twice or more a-day, a great power, in many cases of Nervous Disease, failing to secure the best effects, by the reaction produced in the system. The Machine may be used with confidence, no injury being known to result from its use.

USEFUL TO PRINTERS.—The United States Gazette, speaking of the improvement of Mr. Josiah Warren, of Indiana, whose agent, Mr. S. Robinson, is now in Philadelphia, says: "The grand secret seems to be in the substitution of a new and very cheap metal, susceptible of giving the very finest lines in the matrice, and yet so easily fused and managed that any printer can cast his own plates without any other fixtures than is to be found in any printing office, and that, too, in a very short space of time, and at a cost less than one-fourth the price of common stereotype plates. Mr. Robinson showed us a plate that had borne 10,000 impressions of a power press without affecting it. He also has specimens of printing from original type metal plates, and from those duplicated in the new metal, and it is difficult to say which is the original and which the copy.—*N. Y. Sun.*

[A company has been formed in this city, and the right purchased for the State of Missouri, of its original inventor, Mr. Josiah Warren, of New Harmony, Indiana. The leading article in the next number of the Magnet will be explanatory of this improvement in printing, as also a specimen of its application in producing impressions of written manuscript.]